



### **Why IV antibiotics?**

IV medications can deliver more medication directly into the bloodstream and are usually more effective at treating infection when oral medications have not eradicated the infection. Some medications are only available in IV form.

### **What is a PICC?**

A Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC) line is a long, skinny tube made of a soft

flexible plastic. The PICC is placed in a vein in the arm. PICC lines are increasingly the treatment of choice for patients receiving weeks of IV antibiotics or therapy. They can be inserted safely and managed easily, away from the hospital, and pose relatively low risks of complications.

### **How is a PICC line placed?**

PICC lines are placed by specially trained nurses and /or doctors usually in a hospital or physicians office.

### **What are the benefits of a PICC line?**

Once the PICC is inserted there are no needles involved and PICC lines are easy to maintain. You will be instructed by a skilled professional on how to give yourself medications and how to care and maintain your PICC line. Your therapy can be administered in the comfort of your home, office and even when traveling.

### **What are some of the risks of a PICC line?**

Although complications with PICC lines are rare, they may include, Infection, Phlebitis (Inflammation of the vein) and in very rare cases thrombus (a blood clot).

### **What if I have questions or concerns?**

Every patient is provided with a well-organized program that enables your health-care team to implement, monitor, and evaluate your care and answer your questions.

### **Restrictions:**

There are few limitations with a PICC line. You may not go swimming or submerge your PICC underwater. However, showering is permitted.